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DDS&T-3733-68  
25 September 1968

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. [REDACTED] PPE

SUBJECT: Draft - FY71-FY75 Program Call Instructions

1. The subject draft has been circulated to the DD/S&T offices for their remarks. The reception accorded the draft has been good; and, in most instances, the comments have been favorable and constructive. An enumeration of these comments is as follows:

General:

1. By requiring full reporting (in Part II) of all programs whether new or continuing, a great deal of redundancy with previous reports is created. The FY70-74 CPC submitted by this directorate was nearly 500 pages in length. Under the guide lines provided by this draft, the FY71-75 submission will probably equal this volume. Much of what it reports in objectives and program plans will be a regurgitation of last year's information. Since very little of this verbiage finds its way into the Program Memos that go to BOB, this "in house" exercise in redundancy appears to be "for the record." We would much prefer to report only changes in the program plans of on-going programs, relying upon and referring to previous submissions for backup.
2. The Office of Computer Services' programs depend upon the projected needs of its users. It would be extremely advantageous if these requirements could be made known to OCS at a date well in advance of the CPC draft submission date. It is our understanding that many of the offices in DD/S handle their requirements in this manner, and we feel that no new precedent is being requested.
3. A basic shortcoming of last year's Program is still inherent in this draft. The draft would require an enumeration of accomplishments in the preceding calendar year (1968), followed by a prognostication of FY 1971 through FY 1975. The 18-month period of 1 January 1969 to 30 June 1970 is not covered. Planning changes could occur for that period and receive no coverage in the FY71-75 Program. It would seem appropos to include an enumeration of these changes on a "by-exception" basis.

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Specific:

Par. II A (2), page 2. ORD objects to the term "basic research" being employed in this example, in that very little (if any) basic research per se is accomplished in this agency.

Par. II A (3), page 2. ORD strongly favors the discussion and summary of "areas in which little or no progress has been made." The pointing up of technical, administrative, or political problems being encountered can be beneficial.

Par. II B, pages 2&3. The footnote to this paragraph is confusing and misleading. It refers to "Program Element" with regard to "Research, Development, and Overhead Reconnaissance Activities." The former is a category in the agency program structure, and the latter is no longer in use in any capacity. In the past we have reported all of our programs at sub-element level (we call them "projects"). It is our intention to continue this practice, as it ties in with our Budgeting and Contract Information Systems.

Par. II B 2 b, page 4. ORD strongly endorses this requirement for documentation of coordination, joint planning, and requirements. They feel they were unjustly criticized for the detail in which they covered this in the last submission. Alluding to coordination or requirements in vague platitudes can only cloud the issue.


Par. II C 2, page 6. Operating with the FY70 Congressional Budget as a base and allowing a 1% increase per year would seem to negate the importance of this exercise. With the exception of the "substantial changes" outlined in par. 3, the Program Call could be handled quite simply by a clerk with a computer. In light of past experience we know the 1% is unrealistic. Step increases in personnel payments more than take care of this amount. Perhaps a scale based upon past experience would be more meaningful. If, as seems likely, the FY71 resource level will be held near FY70, we request that policy guidelines be published early.

Par. II D, page 7. This paragraph implies that TOD's will be required for all agency programs. Last year RD&E work was completely exempted from this requirement, and computer services were largely excluded. We trust the same arraignment will hold true when the complete TOD instructions are published.

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2. When the final draft of this memo is completed, DD/S&T would appreciate the privilege of reviewing it prior to publication.

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Comptroller  
Directorate of  
Science and Technology

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